

How do veterinarians help protect the environment?

Scientists, regulators, and the public are becoming increasingly concerned about the presence and impact of emerging chemical contaminants (including pharmaceuticals, veterinary medicine residues, nanoparticles, and degradation products) and emerging persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in the environment. Veterinarians assist in protecting the environment by identifying and tracking contaminants from sources like confined animal feeding operations or fish hatcheries to prevent contaminants from polluting waterways (lakes, rivers, and streams) and ground water aquifers.

Veterinarians who work in aquatic medicine monitor changes in fish populations, research aquatic animal diseases, and assist in emergency situations such as oil spills by organizing the capture, cleanup, and release of affected wildlife in the area.

Do veterinarians help animals in the event of a hurricane or other disaster?

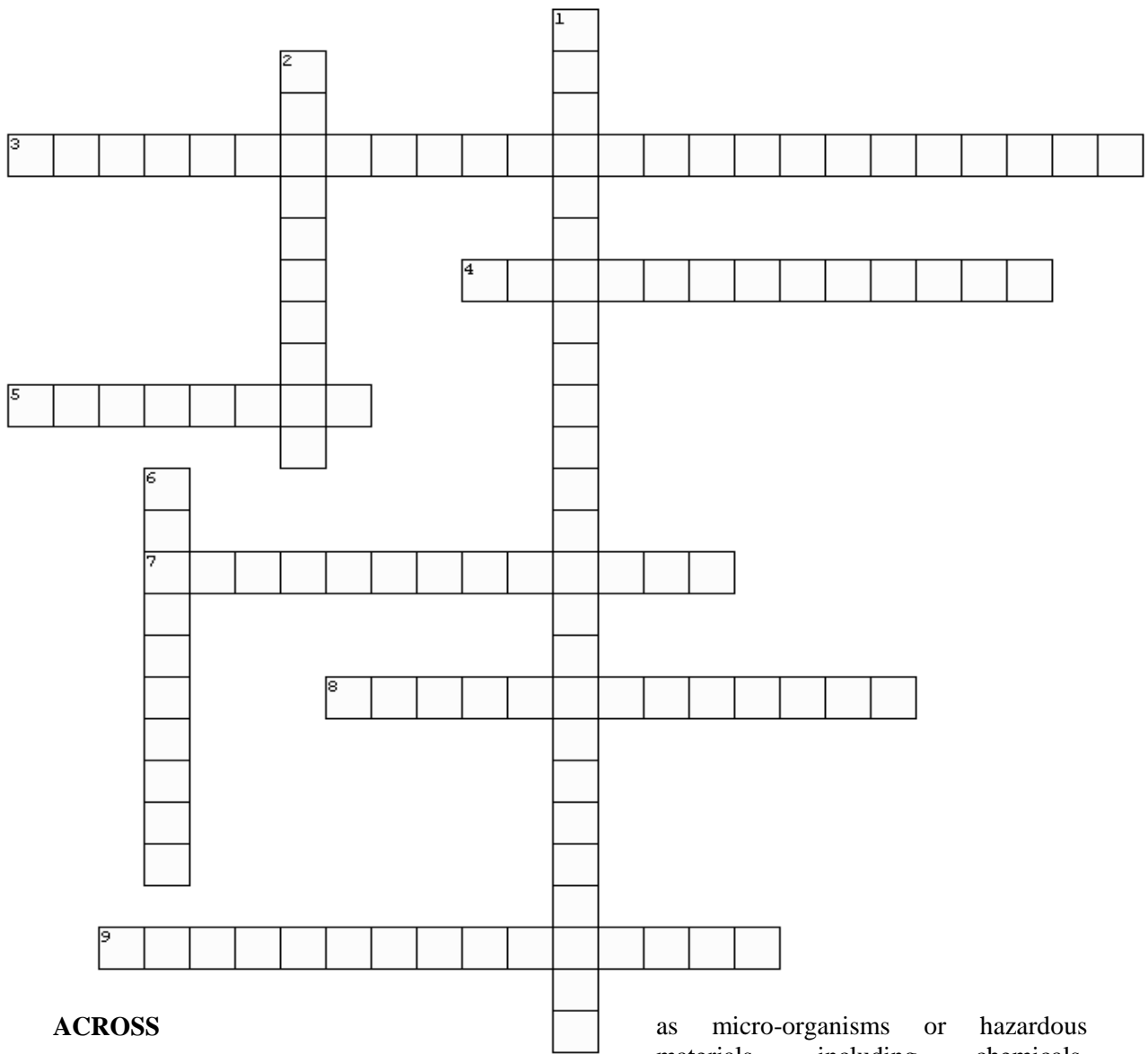
Veterinarians play a critical role in caring for animals after natural and man-made disasters. Today, more and more emphasis is being placed upon anticipating the needs of animals before a disaster strikes and preparing for a potential emergency or evacuation in advance. The federal government has even mandated that states allow people to take their pets with them to shelters when there is an emergency evacuation. As a result of the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006, many states are now developing state animal response teams to help in disaster situations.

How do veterinarians assist after a disaster?

One way veterinarians have assisted animals impacted by disasters is through the work of Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMATs). Consisting of highly trained veterinarians, veterinary technicians, scientists, epidemiologists, toxicologists, and other medical and lay support personnel, these VMAT teams were created by the AVMA and have been sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical Foundation as a vehicle to respond to the needs of animals during a disaster.

What activities can veterinarians perform in a disaster situation?

- Assessment of medical needs of animals
- Medical treatment and stabilization of animals
- Animal disease surveillance
- Zoonotic disease surveillance and public health assessment
- Technical assistance to assure food and water quality
- Biological and chemical terrorism surveillance
- Animal decontamination
- Humane euthanasia



ACROSS

3. residues and waste products that make water unsafe for humans and animals to drink and food unsafe to eat
4. a microscopic particle whose size is measured in nanometers
5. a sudden event, such as an accident or a natural catastrophe, that causes great damage or loss of life
7. A person who studies the adverse effects of chemicals on living organisms
8. to maintain at a given or unfluctuating level or quantity
9. the process of cleansing an object or substance to remove contaminants such

as micro-organisms or hazardous materials, including chemicals, radioactive substances, and infectious diseases.

DOWN

1. pharmaceuticals, veterinary medicine residues, nanoparticles, degradation products, and pollutants in the environment
2. a place where fish or poultry eggs is artificially controlled for commercial purposes.
6. ending an animal's life